

Conclusion

In view of the above, the presently pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass the application to issue. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (202) 942-5512 with respect to any unresolved issues remaining in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel L. Adams (Reg. Atty. No. 54,660)
Holly Logue Prutz (Reg. Atty. No. 47,755)
David R. Marsh (Reg. Atty. No. 41,408)

ARNOLD & PORTER LLP
555 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 200041206
(202) 942-5000 telephone
(202) 942-5999 facsimile

Date: February 18, 2004

Correspondence Address:

MONSANTO COMPANY
800 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
Mailzone E2NA
St. Louis, MO 63167
(314) 694-3602 telephone
(314) 694-1671 facsimile